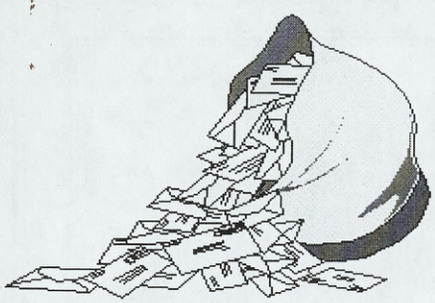

Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA
32623

Vol. 8, No. 8 August, 2000 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 965-6851

A Response to The Advocate

The June 20th issue of *The Advocate* carried an article that was very offensive to transgendered people. The Chair of the Lambda Letters Project sent a response to *The Advocate*. We thought you might like to see her response. (130 other responses from the magazine's readers can be read on Advocate.com.)

Dear Norah Vincent,

After reading your article, "Cunning Linguists," I thought I would comment on your use of language and your opinion of transsexual behavior.

I believe that you are correct in your definitions of sex and gender, male and female, masculine and feminine. However, your conception that the gender community, acting on an Athenian obsession, are demanding a fundamental change in the language is simply not true.

I am insulted by your ludicrous idea that the gender community is so obtuse that it does not understand the concepts and words connected with *sex* and *gender*. I believe if you had examined a wider sample of the gender community you would have learned that.

Again I must correct you, that "not every transsexual" is interested in having surgical modification to

Continued on page 12

Changes at Lambda Letters

On July 8th the Lambda Letters board of directors selected an independent contractor to perform a wide variety of clerical and office duties previously done by Boyce Hinman, his partner Larry Beaty, and board member Ray Leber.

The board selected Lynn Dobbs, long-time member of Lambda Letters and a very productive member of its board of directors. He will remain on the board as well as functioning as an independent contractor for the Project.

Lynn will receive a flat monthly compensation from Lambda Letters for his services. He will also be reimbursed for expenses for such things as supplies, postage, etc. He will work out of his own office space in San Diego and use his own office equipment. Sometime this fall, therefore, you will begin receiving your mailings from San Diego rather than Sacramento.

Selecting an independent contractor to provide clerical services for Lambda Letters is one of several important steps being taken to prepare Lambda Letters for the time when Boyce Hinman will retire as its Administrator. We will keep you informed of further changes as they occur.

###

Also in This Issue:

Women's Issue 3
People of Color Issue 3
LGBT Issue 4, 13
HIV/AIDS Issue 4
August Legislative Update 6–12
Two New Board Members Elected 13
Easy Giving with Clout 13

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

June, 2000	5,301 letters & e-mails
In all of 2000	72,471 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

June, 2000	$2,352
In all of 2000	$10,901

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

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Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly except in December by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.
Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

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If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") $10 per issue, quarter-page ads $20 per issue, half-page ads $30 per issue, full-page ads $50 per issue. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

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Women's Issue

A List for the Major Candidates

by Adrienne Lauby

Two decades ago my young brother drove his car down a country road, into a ditch, and died. At that time, Ralph Nader had begun to force the auto industry to make safety improvements. Automakers knew their rigid steering columns were a major cause of death but were unwilling to retool to make them collapsible. Nader went to court and saved the lives of millions of drivers. As it happened, he was too late for my brother.

Every four years, I approach my presidential vote with the same seriousness with which I analyze candidates for my county supervisor. I know my single vote is insignificant in terms of the president and only somewhat important in terms of the county officers, but I was taught young to respect elections.

This year, when Nader announced he would run as the Green Party candidate, I felt something new. I felt a sentimental, emotional desire to vote for him because, long before I knew anything about corporate responsibility, he was doing something. He was trying to keep my brother alive.

I don't usually write my article for LLP members this personally, but I wanted you to know how I came to write this month's Women's Issue letters. Maybe it was my mother's voice—that calm, logical part of me saying, What would a candidate have to do to get your vote? Something of that sort must have happened because, finally, I sat down and made a list.

Truthfully, in presidential elections most of us have only one insignificant vote. Only the folks with big money, the people who can deliver voter segments, and the media outlets get the ear of the major party candidates.

Yet I am an idealist. I want to believe that 500 people and the truth can make a difference. I tell myself that because we're Californians and our swings of opinions are being mapped and analyzed by expensive campaign consultants, maybe we do matter.

I actually believe that if enough of you do sign and return letters on this issue, candidates will think bigger and more progressively than they would otherwise. I'm willing to reconsider my vote for Ralph Nader. There are just ten promises I want. Lambda Letters has provided the letters addressed to the two major candidates. Please return the letter of your choice. ###

People of Color Issue

Support Improved Education for Native Americans in California

by Marty Martinez

Since 1974, Indian Education Centers (IECs) have helped Native American children improve their education by providing remedial programs in reading and mathematics, after-school activities, and counseling to Native American children. In addition, the programs provide support for Native American adults in seeking employment and getting job training. There are currently thirty IECs statewide, ten located on Indian reservations, six in cities with high Native American Indian populations, and fourteen rural centers located near reservations.

These centers are believed by many to be highly successful. Nationally, Native American students fare worse than any other ethnic group. They experience the highest dropout rates, suicide rates, and rates of substance abuse. Happily, these statistics all appear to be better in areas served by IECs.

AB 1746 by Assemblymember Scott Wildman (D–Glendale) would expand the services provided by the centers and change the formula by which the state funds the programs in a way that would increase their funding. Specifically, the bill would require IECs to provide recovery programs for pupils who have dropped out of school.

The bill has passed the Assembly and is located, at the time of writing, in the Senate Appropriations committee. It is expected to pass and be voted on by the entire Senate soon.

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Attacking Hate Crimes

by Noemi Perez

The report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) for 1999 has been released, and it finds that although the number of violent incidents has declined, violence against the LGBT community continues to grow more deadly than ever before. Ever since the death of Matthew Shepherd, 37 "gay"-related murders have occurred, and numerous hate-crime bills have been introduced to the California State Legislature and to Congress.

At the national level, the Local Law Enforcement Act of 2000 seeks to include sexual orientation, gender, and disability to the list of protected categories covered by hate crimes. It would also permit federal authorities to assist in investigations of hate-based crimes without having to address the victim's engagement in a federally protected activity, as stated in federal law. The Kennedy-Smith Act, as it's also known, is a new and improved version of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The bill was redesigned to give local authorities the ability to use federal funds for the investigation and prosecution of "gay"-based murders. The amendment by the U.S. Senate came after discussion over differences in the handling of the James Byrd and Matthew Shepherd cases. In the James Byrd case, the brutal death of an African-American male in Texas, federal officials were able to grant federal funds because his race was the motivating factor in his death. Funds were unavailable in Shepherd's case because sexual orientation and gender are not protected categories in federal law. Please sign the enclosed letter addressing passage of this important piece of legislation.

Other Hate-Crime Legislation

Statistics also show that hate incidents in schools and colleges have increased nationwide by 19 percent since 1998. Legislative leaders and activists are attempting to address the issue by implementing changes in public schools. Currently awaiting passage in the State Assembly, SB 1326 by Tom Hayden (D–Los Angeles) would require the Department of Education to review the state's courses on human relations. This bold attempt would force the Board of Education to

Continued on page 13

Governor Davis' Mixed Message

by Marty Martinez, AIDS Project East Bay

Governor Davis has sent a mixed message to the HIV/AIDS community in signing the FY 2000–01 state budget.

On the positive side, he allowed several million dollars in new HIV/AIDS funding that was passed by both houses of the state legislature to go through. Included was $2.8 million to implement a non-names reporting system for tracking HIV cases, and $2.4 million for HIV drug resistance testing for persons with HIV and AIDS.

However, he vetoed $1 million for improved partner notification and referral services, and $6 million that would have gone toward stemming the epidemic in communities of color, including improved care and treatment in communities of color, targeted prevention messages to these same communities, and capacity-building and infrastructure improvements in community-based organizations and AIDS service organizations that primarily serve communities of color.

The $6 million that Governor Davis vetoed was part of a larger $8 million request that HIV advocates throughout the state had advocated for strongly. Both houses of the legislature ultimately approved the new funding. The governor, under the California Constitution, may veto some spending items out of budget bills without vetoing the entire budget. He chose to cut $6 million from the package, thereby allowing $2 million to go through.

Although the governor did indeed support increased HIV/AIDS funding, his blue-penciling of $7 million in a time of huge surpluses is uncalled for. The HIV epidemic continues to ravage communities of color. AIDS is one of the leading causes of death among persons of color in California. The $8 million budget request had the support of a wide range of advocates throughout the state, including the California HIV Advocacy Coalition.

The governor sent the HIV community a mixed message. Now it's time to send him one back. Thank Governor Davis for giving us what he approved, but let him know you are disappointed by his eliminating some portions of the HIV appropriations sent to his desk.

###

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August Legislative Update

The following is the list of important state bills that we are aware of at this time. There are several important deadlines that affect state legislation. All bills have to be approved by the Appropriations Committee in their second house no later than August 18th. For example, all bills that begin with "AB" were first introduced in the State Assembly and must be approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee by no later than August 18th. Any bills that fail to meet this deadline are dead. All bills must be sent to the governor no later than August 31st. The governor has until September 30th to sign all bills sent to him by that date.

Here are the definitions of three, perhaps unfamiliar terms or phrases you will find in the following list of bills:

- **The consent calendar:** This is a list of bills that legislators expect everyone to approve of. To save time the bills are voted on as a group, rather than one by one. At the time of the vote, any one legislator can have a particular bill removed from the list for a separate vote.
- **The suspense file:** This is a list of bills that will be voted on individually, but at a later date. Often appropriations committees will put off votes in this way on expensive bills.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 16 (Mike Honda, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in-home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties.
Status: Passed by the Assembly. Is a two-year bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 142 (Kevin Shelley, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To set rules and procedures for appeals to the Department of Corporations by health care clients complaining of poor health care by their provider. Allows people to appeal to the state in 30 days in cases involving a serious health threat and in less than 30 days in cases of severe pain.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Is a two-year bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 499 (Dion Aroner, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To require the state Department of Health Services to establish a pilot program to test the effectiveness of providing an assisted living benefit to low-income beneficiaries, including those with AIDS, under the Medi-Cal program.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 591 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require health care service plans and certain disability insurers to cover routine patient costs related to treatment in a clinical trial of experimental medications.
Status: Is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. No date set for a hearing yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1722 (Martin Gallegos, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: Previously passed legislation says that health care service plans can't stop covering a medication for a patient while the patient is under treatment for a particular ailment for which that drug has been prescribed. This legislation adds that the health care provider cannot increase the co-payment or other deductible for the medication during the course of treatment of a disease for which the medication has been prescribed until the end of the enrollee's contract.

Continued on page 7

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August Legislative Update

Continued from page 6

Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1955 (Carol Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To ask the federal government to provide funds for the design, establishment, and operation of a state program to offer medical assistance to workers with potentially severe disabilities.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2037 (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)
Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a demonstration project to provide certain services to children, under the age of 37 months, who are alcohol or drug exposed or who are HIV-positive. This bill increases the age to 60 months.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2168 (Martin Gallegos, D–City of Industry)
Purpose: To require insurance providers to view HIV and AIDS as conditions or diseases that require treatment by a provider with demonstrated expertise in the treatment of these conditions.
Status: Is awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor which could come anytime after August 6th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2809 (Robert Pacheco, R–City of Industry)
Purpose: Existing law requires that a blood specimen be obtained from a pregnant woman before or at the time of delivery. The blood must be tested for blood type and the presence of hepatitis B. This bill would require the blood also be tested for the presence of HIV. A woman could refuse HIV testing if she has been determined to be chronically infected with HIV or if a medical professional explains the purpose of testing and the currently approved treatments. Proponents and opponents agreed to several good amendments to this bill prior to its being approved by the Assembly Health Committee. For example, the revised version requires that the woman give informed, written consent prior to HIV testing. However, the California Medical Association tried to amend some of the bad features of the bill again before the Health Committee vote. They failed at this time.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Neutral.

SB 848 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the state Department of Health Services to establish a voluntary program for the issuance of identification cards to qualified patients and to establish procedures under which those patients may use marijuana for medical purposes.
Status: Passed the Senate. Is a two-year bill on the floor of the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1258 (Richard Polanco, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled. Also directs the state to seek to make Medi-Cal managed care plans available to any person eligible for Medi-Cal through a share of cost.
Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File. Must be acted upon by August 18th.
LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

AB 1785 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require school districts to report incidents of hate crimes in their schools and to establish procedures for doing so. Makes other changes to promote diversity in schools.
Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

Continued on page 8

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

AB 1851 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)
Purpose: To provide directions to California courts as to how to process petitions from post-operative transsexuals for recognition of their new sex and new, gender appropriate, name. Has been amended to require people from outside the state to live in California for six months before requesting recognition from California courts of their change of gender.
Status: Passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is a sponsor of the bill.

AB 1906 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)
Purpose: To remove funding restrictions in the Education Code's Hate Violence Protection Act.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and the Senate Education Committee. Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1931 (Jack Scott, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: To require school districts to report annually on the number of suspensions and recommendations for expulsions resulting from school hate crimes. Appropriates $150,000 for training to assist school district staff in identification of hate crimes. Provides $2 million for student and teacher training focused on overcoming prejudice, countering hatred, and fostering ethnic sensitivity.
Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

Carol Pierce, Ph.D.
M.F.T. Lic. #MFC14864

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AB 2000 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the California Commission on Human Relations in the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) to make policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the collection, dissemination of information, standards, and guidelines for local human relations commissions; appropriates $150,000 to establish the commission.
Status: Approved by the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2047 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: Radically changed. This bill now expands the effect of registering as a domestic partner in California to any provision of law referring to domestic partners, allowing domestic partners to request an autopsy of their partner, to make medical treatment decisions for a partner in certain circumstances, to get preference when his or her partner needs a court-appointed conservator, to inherit from a partner who dies without a will. The bill revises the statutory will form to allow people to name their domestic partners as beneficiaries.
Status: Died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Its language may be amended into an Assembly bill now in the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2142 (Fred Keeley, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination based on actual or perceived gender.
Status: Was approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Will be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee, probably on August 8th.
LLP Position: Support. LLP is a cosponsor of the bill.

AB 2418 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To prohibit an attorney from excusing a person from a jury simply because the person is a member of a particular racial, religious, ethnic, sexual orientation, or gender group, or on similar grounds.
Status: Signed by the Governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2421 (Carole Midgen, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: The purpose of this bill was radically changed. It now states that only one member of oppo-

Continued on page 9

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 8

site-gender couples needs to be over 62 for them to register with the state as domestic partners.
Status: Was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1173 (John Vasconcellos D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow courts to grant reasonable child visitation rights to de facto parents, including domestic partners, in cases where the parents of a child have separated.
Status: Passed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 9th.
LLP Position: Watch. There is some concern this might be used against biological mothers.

SB 1329 (Betty Karnette, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a special interest license program. The bill had required that organizations which receive funds generated by the plates must not discriminate in their employment practices on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religion, political party affiliation, or sexual orientation However, the author dropped this feature from the bill under pressure from the Governor. This changes our position on the bill from support to neutral. Will be dropped from next version of this list because it no longer relates to one of our issue areas.
Status: Sent to the Governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Neutral.

SB 2025 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To incorporate all the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) into the State Civil Service Act, this providing the protections of FEHA (including protections from sexual orientation–based discrimination) to state employees.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

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People of Color Issues

AB 2417 (Marco Firebaugh, D–Huntington Park)
Purpose: To extend eligibility of legal immigrants for food and cash assistance beyond the current September 30th cutoff date.
Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for hearing tentatively scheduled for August 14th.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require every peace officer in the state to receive training on racial profiling. Outlaws the practice. Requires peace officers to provide business cards to people stopped for alleged traffic violations. The business card feature was added when the Governor forced Senator Murray to drop SB 1389.
Status: Is awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. If the Assembly passes it, it would have to return to the Senate for concurrence with changes made in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 984 (Richard Polanco, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day and to designate the date as a paid holiday for state employees. Requires public schools to teach about Cesar Chavez.
Status: Has passed the Senate and the relevant Assembly Policy Committee. Is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1246 (Martha Escutia, D–Montebello)
Purpose: To provide more effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act. Clarifies that private parties can file an administrative complaint when they are denied access to government services due to their limited English proficiency.
Status: Will be heard in Assembly Appropriations

Continued on page 10

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

Committee on August 9th.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1326 (Tom Hayden, D- Los Angeles)
Purpose: Purpose changed to require the State Department of Education to report on amount of diversity training occurring in public schools. Community Colleges are required to report on the number of hate crimes occurring on their campuses.
Status: Was approved by the Assembly Education Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 9th.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1364 (Patrick Johnston, D–Stockton)
Purpose: Current law prohibits health care professionals and organizations from releasing the results of genetic testing to a third party without the prior written consent of the person tested. This bill stipulates that the prohibition also applies to genetic traits in which the person is asymptomatic for the disease which might result from a genetic trait. Also requires the state to set standards for those who care for patients with illnesses relating to the genetic trait.
Status: Passed by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 9th.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 1898 (Hilda Solis, D–El Monte)
Purpose: To establish a program to increase the percentage of students transferring from California's community colleges to four-year colleges or universities.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 40 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer

Continued on page 11

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August Legislative Update

Continued from page 10

treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.
Status: Passed by the Assembly. Is in the suspense file of the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 398 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)
Purpose: To authorize the sale of bonds to provide funds for government-backed affordable housing.
Status: This bill was dropped by the author because the need was met by the budget signed by the Governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 525 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Encino)
Purpose: To require hospitals and disability plans to advise potential customers that they may want to request information about reproductive services provided by the plan before signing up with it.
Status: Is awaiting a final vote on the floor of the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 591 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require health plans to pay for routine patient care costs when patients are in Phase II or Phase III clinical trials of experimental medications or treatments if the treatment is for a life-threatening illness.
Status: Is in Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

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AB 908 (Elaine White Alquist, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To establish a gender-equity train-the-trainer grant program for the award of grants from funds available for that purpose to the governing boards of school districts and county offices of education. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop criteria for the grant applications and to select grant recipients. The purpose of the program would be to train public school teachers in gender-equity education.
Status: Passed the Assembly and the Senate education committee. In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1814 (Ted Lempert, D–Palo Alto)
Purpose: To provide that mothers who are breast feeding their children be exempt from jury duty until they stop breast feeding their children.
Status: Is awaiting a final vote on the floor of the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1856 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Encino)
Purpose: To make non-owner, non-supervisory employees liable for harassment of coworkers on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation. Introduced to reverse a State Supreme Court decision that said such harassment by owners or supervisors is prohibited by law, but not harassment by coworkers.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and the Senate Industrial Relations Committee. Double referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Will be heard there on August 8th.
LLP Position: Support

AB 2038 (Elaine White Alquist, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To require a grantee, in conducting or supporting a project of clinical research, to ensure that women of all ages and members of minority groups are included as subjects in the clinical research projects.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2108 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require that all terminally-ill female inmates receiving hospice care in the Central Women's

Continued on page 12

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 11

Facility receive a standard of care similar to the treatment given to male inmates at the state prison facility in Vacaville.
Status: Sent to the Governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2357 (Mike Honda, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require employers to grant a victim of domestic abuse up to 15 days of unpaid leave in a twelve-month period so the employee can seek legal assistance, counseling, assistance from a domestic violence shelter, etc. to deal with the domestic violence.
Status: Approved by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 7th.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 193 (Richard Polanco, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.
Status: Is on the Assembly floor consent calendar.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1154 (Jackie Speier, D–Daly City)
Purpose: To enact the California Breast and Gynecological Cancer Treatment Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to provide treatment services to low-income, underinsured women.
Status: Passed the Senate and its Assembly policy committee. Senator Speier is negotiating with the Governor's office seeking his support. Is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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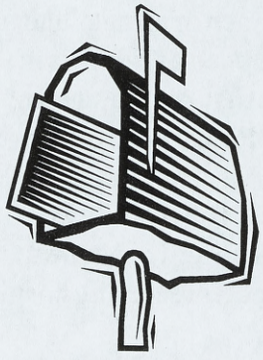


A Response to The Advocate

Continued from page 1

their body. Many among of the transsexual community do not feel the need to employ any surgical procedures at all.

You comment that, for purposes of procreation, there are two sexes." May I say that, for purposes of procreation, nature has conceived hermaphrodites, dioecious plants, and animals that change sex during phases of their life.

Speaking of using euphemism in your slighting comment, "If I am born doubly blessed in the lower 40...," are you referring to being born with both a penis and a vagina? You insult the intersex community with your narrow interpretation of what intersex is. You prohibit individuality and further confuse the issue between sex and gender, penis and vagina.

I take exception to your definition of sex-reassignment surgery as "transsexual. mutilation" and your juvenile notion that a transsexual puts on a penis or a vagina like makeup. "Transsexualism is a condition in which a person's sense of identity as a woman or a man does not correspond with his or her genitalia and other physical characteristics." (*Transsexual Workers,* Janis Walworth, Center for Gender Sanity, 1998, p. 1). The goal for many transsexuals is to feel like a "whole person." Adapting the social customs and the physical appearance and manners of the gender and sex of choice is the way a transsexual begins the process to be "whole."

As for your own desire to "half the time I'm sir and half the time I'm ma'am" or be androgynous, I defend your right to express your gender as you wish.

Some people believe that protections for gender expression do not apply to the non-transgender community. AB 2142 is a bill going through the California legislature that would prohibit discrimination based on gender expression, which includes persons considered "too fem or too butch," as well as androgynous persons like Norah Vincent. AB 2142 will benefit the GLBT community as a whole.

Missing from your commentary are the thousands of transgender men and women who have suffered injury and death under the misconception of society that bending the rules of gender is an admission of guilt to a deadly sin. Please treat transgender persons with the love, respect, and understanding that God intended for us all.
(signed)
Lori Norman, Chair, Lambda Letters Project

Two New Board Members Elected

At its July 8th board meeting, Lambda Letters' board of directors elected two new people to the board: Delores Dickerson and Sabrina McIntosh.

Delores Dickerson is from the San Francisco Bay Area, although she used to live in San Diego. She has been a member of Lambda Letters for several years and has done considerable work for the Project even before joining our board. She is a skillful membership recruiter. At the San Jose Pride Festival this year she enlisted 70 new members for the Project. She frequently visits church and other groups to talk about Lambda Letters and recruit new members. She has also raised a significant amount of money for the Project. A few years ago, as the Chair of TransAction, she led that group's successful effort to overturn a San Diego ordinance that prohibited cross-dressing. This was a significant victory for the trans community.

Sabrina McIntosh is from Fresno. She is a reporter and photographer for two newspapers in the Central Valley, one a GLBT paper and the other a mainstream paper. She and her partner are raising two children.

The addition of Sabrina to the board increases our representation in the Central Valley. Including Ken Kohler, we now have two board members from that region. There are a number of swing Democrats with moderate voting records who represent California's Central Valley. These legislators have just so-so voting records on our issues. Hopefully, our two board members will help us increase our membership in the region and help us generate the letters needed to persuade their legislators to do a better job on the issues we care about.

Sabrina's media experience will also be especially helpful to Lambda Letters. She promises to help us build a comprehensive and effective media program.

We welcome both Delores Dickerson and Sabrina McIntosh to our board. ###

Don't Know Who Represents You?
Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

Easy Giving with Clout

Uncommon Clout—an unusually socially conscious credit card company that donates a portion of its profits each year to the LGBT community—recently issued its summer newsletter, in which it mentions Lambda Letters Project. Their newsletter reported that Uncommon Clout donated $37,746 to the LGBT community earlier this year, which they divided among 81 organizations. Donation amounts ranged from $3,154 for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund to $41 for Phoenix Body Positive, Inc. Lambda Letters received $186.

Each year Uncommon Clout asks its customers to nominate organizations that should receive donations from the company. If an organization is selected, it is added to a ballot sent to credit card holders near the end of the year. Card holders are invited to vote for organizations that they think should receive money. Donations are allocated among the organizations in accordance with the number of votes they get. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has been the top vote getter for several years.

Are you an Uncommon Clout customer? If so, watch for your ballot sometime this fall. Lambda Letters will be on the ballot again and we hope you will vote for us. ###

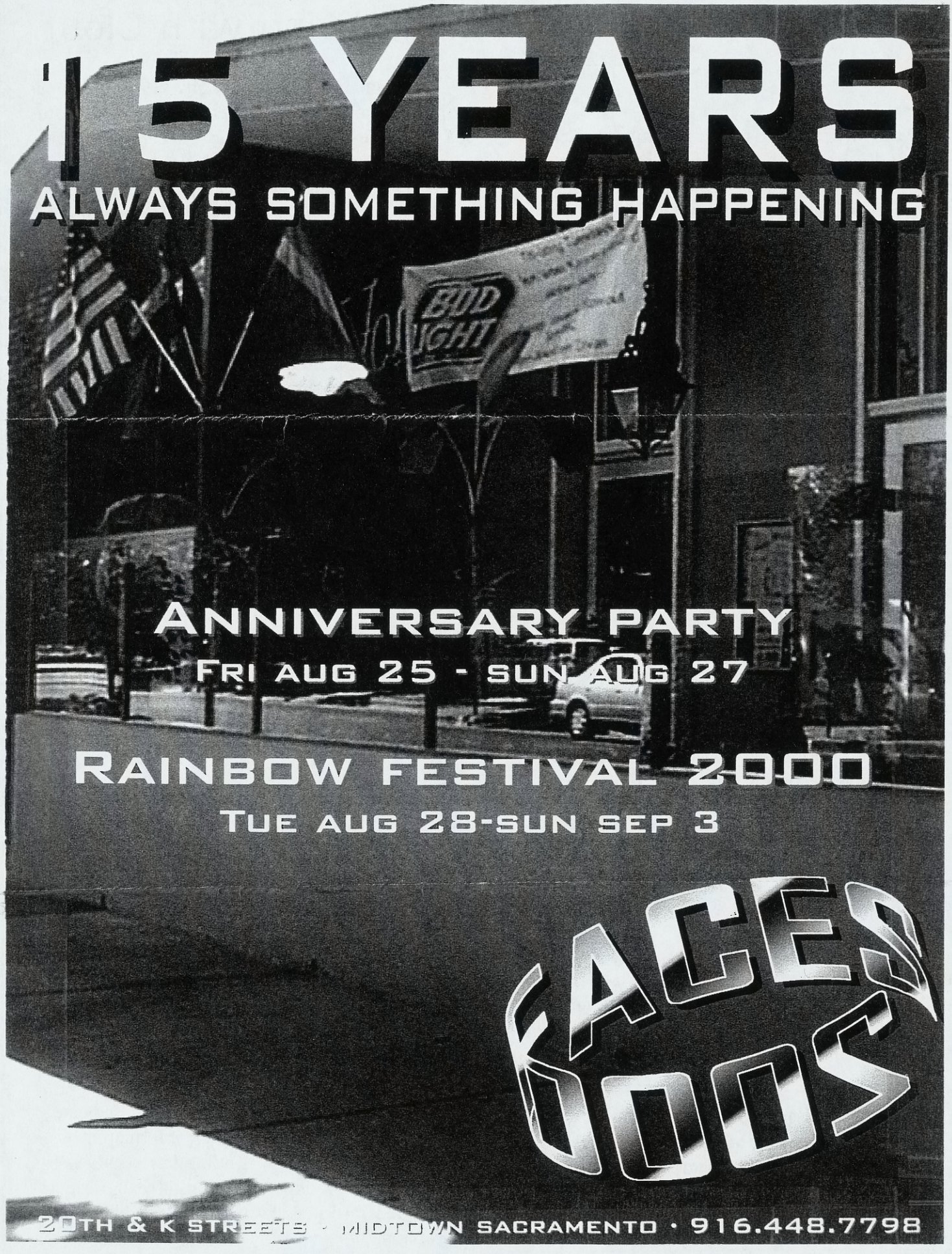
Hate-Crime Legislation

Continued from page 4

gauge the effectiveness of its curriculum in an attempt to curve hate incidents in schools.

Another bill, AB 1931 by Assemblymember Jack Scott (D–Pasadena), would require the Department of Education to report hate incidents by school district on an annual basis. This would allow officials to track regional occurrences and spot trends. It would also assist in addressing the effectiveness of human relations curriculum and local programs.

Considering all the efforts of local and national organizations and leaders, how come LGBT murders have increased? The NCAVP reported a 13 percent increase in murder victims between 1998 and 1999, and investigative reports of murdered victims indicate the severity of their deaths. No recent information has been published on this recent finding, but the NCAVP's recommendation of adopting gender and sexual orientation to our federal crimes law will assist in addressing this problem. ###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